



**Commission on  
Disability Issues**

**Howard County Commission on Disability Issues  
Gateway Building, Room 303  
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046**

**Minutes 8-25-14**

Present: Matthew Plantz  
Byung Ahn  
Chelsea Stanton  
Bridget MccCarthy  
John Blake  
Steve Rivers  
Jim Ennis  
Jean Daniello  
Doug Lea

Excused: Carol Beatty

Guest (s): Will Stocker  
Richard Cohen

Unexcused: Alex Walker  
Arthur Gold  
Gloria Smith  
Andrea Kolp  
Lynn Albizo

Staff: Michelle Henry (Executive Secretary)  
Erica Lewis (Staff Liaison)  
Terry Zeigler (Recording Secretary)

Welcome and Introductions

**I. Approval of minutes for April 28, 2014 and June 16, 2014**

- Minutes for April and June approved as written.

**II. Brief Reports**

A. CDI Staff (Michelle)

- HC County Bill 14-2014, introduced by Jen Terrasa, was approved on May 8<sup>th</sup> and became effective July 8, 2014. The bill removes outdated and potentially offensive disability terminology from the Howard County Code. (This was a recommendation made by CDI in their 2013 Annual Report.)
- Michelle introduced suggestion of CDI co-sponsoring a Fall 2014 “futures planning” workshop, with use of CDI training funds. Workshop is being planned as a weekday, daytime event. A similar workshop was held last year during a Friday morning and over 100 people attended the event.

CDI members expressed concern that parents and families would not be able to attend if the event was held on a weekday. CDI members indicated they would be willing to discuss co-sponsorship of such an event if held on a Saturday. CDI's suggestion will be discussed with the other sponsors of the proposed workshop.

- B. Chairperson – No report at this time.
- C. Vice Chairperson – No report at this time.

### III. Old Business:

#### A. 2014 Awards Program

##### 1. **Awards program theme**

Motions and voting took place via email in early July regarding the CDI 2014 Awards Program theme of employment and the use of a panel presentation. On 7/16/14, Erica reported the following: Two motions were made in favor of the proposal to have an employment theme and a panel presentation. Ten CDI members voted “yes” in favor of the motion, one CDI member’s vote needed further clarification, and three CDI members did not vote by the deadline. Based upon majority vote of “yes”, CDI will proceed with the **employment theme and panel presentation**.

##### 2. **Recognition of all nominations in the employer category**

In early July, members of the Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities approached Erica and Lynn with the suggestion of CDI recognizing all employer leadership award nominations with a certificate of recognition, and indicated they might be more inclined to submit employer nominations by the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline if all employers were recognized. Due to August 1<sup>st</sup> nomination deadline, an email was sent out in July to CDI members requesting motions and voting. Erica reported that two CDI members supported this motion, seven CDI members voted yes, one CDI member voted no and seven CDI members did not respond. No majority vote, so no further action taken. This issue was discussed at August 25<sup>th</sup> CDI meeting, and CDI expressed concerns that anyone could submit a nomination for the employer leadership award (a relative, etc.) and that did not necessarily make the nomination worthy of a certificate of recognition.

### IV. New Business

#### A. 2014 Awards Program

- 1. Recruitment – panel members needed to participate in panel discussion on employment challenges and successes. Please e-mail suggestions to Michelle.
- 2. Reading and Discussion of Nominations
  - Motions made to eliminate Therapeutic & Recreational Riding Center from consideration since they were a recipient of the 2007 CDI Award – approved by majority vote.

- Motions made to eliminate MarTar Swim School from consideration since they were a recipient of the 2011 CDI Award – approved by majority vote.
- Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts (CCTA) nomination was submitted for consideration in both the business and accessibility categories. Motions made to vote on accessibility category first so that CCTA could potentially be eliminated from business category – approved by majority vote.
- Motions made to have two awards in the youth leadership category – approved by majority vote.
- Motions made to recognize the lifetime achievements of Catherine Raggio, former secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, who retired in May of this year – approved by unanimous vote.

**The 2014 Award Winners are:**

Business Leadership: *NewDay USA (employer)*

Accessibility Leadership: *Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts*

Individual Leadership – Adult: *Katja Fort Rhoden*

Individual Leadership- Youth:

*Molly Lea*

*The team of Lacey Weaver and Alyssa Steinhorn*

Lifetime Achievement Award: *Catherine Raggio*

Erica requested that CDI members submit to her a couple of sentences or a paragraph regarding the accomplishments of Former Secretary Raggio, to be compiled into a tribute to be read the night of the Awards Event.

**V. Announcements:**

- Suggestion made to add a few more meeting dates to 2015 schedule, so that CDI has ample meeting time to conduct its official business. Will be reviewed at next CDI meeting.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm